

Immigration Issues and PWCS—Information to avoid family concerns

Many Prince William County Public Schools students and their families have expressed concern about the ongoing debate over U.S. immigration policy and enforcement. Please be aware that, despite the evolving political discussion, School Division policies and procedures remain unchanged.

There is no reason to fear that Prince William County Public Schools will lessen its commitment to the safety and peace-of-mind of *all* students, staff, and community members, regardless of race, color or national origin, or to educating *all* students, regardless of their immigration status ([click here for more](#)).

- **PWCS remains committed to providing a welcoming, inclusive environment, and quality education for all.**

As in the past when the legal status of students and their families were the subject of heightened anxiety, the School Division will follow its own policies and regulations prohibiting discrimination based on race, color or national origin. This reflects the 1982 Supreme Court decision that held that the public schools must educate all students regardless of their immigration status.

- **We do not expect heightened immigration-related enforcement at our schools.**

We are not aware of any efforts by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) or local law enforcement authorities to enter the public schools to arrest or detain students, parents or staff, and have no reason to expect it. ICE has long considered public schools as “sensitive locations,” where immigration enforcement actions should only take place in situations involving terrorism, risks of violence, threats to national security, or other highly specific dangers. We expect ICE to adhere to this policy.

- **As always, PWCS will protect the legal rights of all students and staff in our schools.**

If ICE and other law enforcement authorities wanted access to schools; PWCS would expect them to produce warrants, subpoenas, or other legal justification, and to await PWCS approval in order to ensure the rights of our students and staff members.

- **PWCS does not ask about immigration status, and does not share student information without appropriate legal justification.**

PWCS never inquires about the immigration status of students and their families, as that status makes no difference under our commitment to educate all students. Additionally, PWCS will not release confidential student information/records to law enforcement authorities, without appropriate subpoenas or legal rulings.

If you have concerns about possible problems associated with a family member’s immigration status, be sure to update PWCS Emergency Contact information. This will assist the School Division in reaching the people you designate, in any situation that might arise.